

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Agency 495

Department of Agriculture

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2005-07 Expenditure Authority	670.5	23,443	83,091	106,534
Supplemental Changes				
Legal Services Costs		14		14
Pandemic Flu Monitoring and Outreach	.5	100		100
Surface Water Monitoring			129	129
Veterinarian Recruitment		49		49
Weights and Measures Inspections *	4.0		724	724
SmartBuy		(172)		(172)
Pension Plan 1 Unfunded Liabilities			203	203
Classification Revisions			(35)	(35)
Central Service Agency Charges		32	67	99
Subtotal - Supplemental Changes	4.5	23	1,088	1,111
Total Proposed Budget	675.0	23,466	84,179	107,645
Difference	4.5	23	1,088	1,111
Percent Change	0.7%	0.1%	1.3%	1.0%

SUPPLEMENTAL CHANGES

Legal Services Costs

Based upon invoices received to date from the Attorney General Legal Services Division, the department anticipates a shortfall in funds available to cover legal services revolving fund payments. Without this additional funding, existing budgeted activities will be impacted and/or reduced for agency legal services. (General Fund-State)

Pandemic Flu Monitoring and Outreach

Domesticated bird populations are potential carriers of various pandemic flu strains including what is commonly know as the bird flu. Because pandemic flu may be transmitted to humans from the avian species, additional resources are provided to increase the state's ability to detect and monitor pandemic flu activity. Funding will help improve surveillance for unusual types of influenza within avian populations and will expand reporting systems.

Surface Water Monitoring

Pesticide runoff from agricultural operations may potentially harm salmonids living in rivers and streams. Efforts to monitor pesticide residues in the tree fruit growing area of the Upper Columbia River will provide additional Washington-specific data for federal assessments of a pesticide's potential risk to salmon. Site specific data is required to properly characterize the climate conditions of North Central Washington. This information cannot be obtained from existing test sites. (State Toxics Control Account)

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Veterinarian Recruitment

The agency has had difficulty securing experienced and qualified veterinarians to perform the wide range of regulatory duties required in the Animal Health program. A salary structure that competes poorly with other states and the private sector is a primary cause of the recruitment and retention challenges. The Department will use this funding to increase salaries in order to attract more candidates and help alleviate workload and public health issues related to ongoing vacant positions.

Weights and Measures Inspections *

Washington currently conducts weight and measure device inspections less frequently than the national average. The state average ranges from every two years to almost never depending on device type, whereas the national average is every one to one and a half years. The current inspection program also produces higher rejection rates for many devices than the national average. This proposal supports agency request legislation to raise fees that will increase the state inspection average for each device to not more than every two years. Increased inspections and lowering of rejection rates will increase consumer protection, promote fair competition among businesses, and help ensure proper payment of business taxes. (Agricultural Local Account-Local)